

CC 96-45

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF FREDERICK COUNTY

115 East Church Street
Frederick, Maryland 21701

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

James A. Carlidge
PresidentVIA FAX
202-418-2801Telephone (301) 694-1315
FAX (301) 694-1800

May 6, 1997

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW, Room 814
Washington, D.C. 20554

SUNSHINE PERIOD

RECEIVED
MAY 8 1997
Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Dear Chairman Hundt:

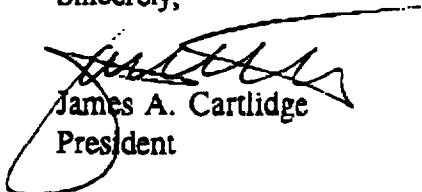
As President of the Board of Education of Frederick County in Maryland, I strongly support affordable and meaningful discounts for all public schools and libraries so that every child can have access to the technology necessary for learning. Thus, I was pleased that the FCC's Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service recommended such deep discounts for telecommunication access for public schools, and I hope that the full FCC adopts those recommendations in whole.

Affordable access to technology in our classrooms will assure that our children can develop the skills they will need in college and in the workplace. Studies have shown that the use of technology in the classroom improves learning and engages students. The earlier a student is exposed to the technology, the easier it is for that student to use technology in learning. In our school system, for example, we have a program which carefully integrates reading and writing curricula objectives with keyboarding and computer literacy activities.

The Frederick County Public School System has increased the use of technology in the classroom over the past several years, but it has been very costly. For example, we have cabled 31 schools for Internet access, but many cannot afford the telecommunication nor the Internet service provider fees.

The decision that the FCC is about to make will have a drastic and immediate effect on the children in the classroom. Every dollar saved by discounted telecommunication rates for schools means another dollar that is available for the education of our students. Thus, on behalf of my fellow board members, and on behalf of all of our students, I urge the FCC to follow through with the recommendations of the Joint Board.

Sincerely,


James A. Carlidge
President

cc: Jack D. Dale, Superintendent of Schools
Mark C. Blom, Assistant Superintendent of Legal Affairs and Human Services
Ray Barnes, Executive Director of Planning and Facilities
Patrick Kelly, Acting Director of Technology Services

SUNSHINE PERIOD

IDABEL MIDDLE SCHOOL

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL

100 N. E. AVE. D
IDABEL, OKLAHOMA

(405) 286-6558

April 28, 1997

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

RECEIVED

MAY 8 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Reed:

I am the librarian at Idabel Middle School, and I would like to thank you for your help in ensuring that all schools and libraries will have affordable access information via the Information Superhighway. Idabel is a small, poor, isolated community, miles away from any major university. We are hoping to be able to access the Internet the coming school year of 1997-98 if the plan that guarantees poor schools a discount for telecommunication services is passed. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools, and bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. We especially need this to help access information for our science fair and prepare the students for the workforce of tomorrow.

Due to a real financial crises in our school, our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I know from talking to our school treasurer that most schools in Oklahoma are in the same boat. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Jo Ann Smith, Librarian

CC96-45

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SUNSHINE PERIOD

BIG BEND		NAHOKH
Rural Health		GADSDEN
Network		WAKULLA
LEON	JEFFERSON	
TAYLOR		
"Improving health care for rural citizens"		
407 E. Ash St., Perry FL P.O. Box 1847 32348		

RECEIVED

MAY - 8 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

FAX

from Rob Lombardo, Executive Director FAX No. (904) 878-7677

TO: FCC Commissioner Rachelle Chong

FAX NUMBER: (202) 418-2820

DATE: May 6, 1997

SUBJECT: "Universal service" policy

PAGES (Including cover): 1

Dear Commissioner Chong

I represent a small rural health network in 6 North Florida counties that have chronic physician shortages. The advantages of telemedicine in our area took on different proportions recently when the only radiologist in the network service area, located at one of the 3 rural hospitals in our area, announced that he was leaving. This will mean that all images taken in our hospitals and physician practices will be sent to the nearest tertiary hospital or urban radiology specialty practice at increased cost and loss of quality care to our rural citizens.

The cost of implementing a telemedicine system cannot be absorbed by our rural health network or any others with which we are familiar. The cost of capital improvements though high, can be absorbed through grant subsidies and other contribution. The cost of overhead, particularly distance line charges for T1 or better communication lines prices our network completely out of contention. In order for rural networks to benefit from telemedicine, the rural physicians and rural hospitals must benefit. Unless telemedicine capability can be brought to the doorstep of the rural physician's practice, or to a centralized rural hospital, the advantages are lost to transportation coordination problems and the fact that the rural physician can ill afford to leave the site of his or her practice to accompany a patient to a telemedicine site. In order to bring T1 lines to our rural doctors, we were quoted prices of \$1200 to \$1400 per month in line cost alone. Obviously a rural doctor cannot afford these additional costs.

Any opportunity to reduce these line charges or use subsidies to reduce end-user cost will bring telemedicine closer to reality for the rural physician. You have a unique opportunity to support the universal services provisions of the Telecommunications Act and require the FCC to direct telecommunications subsidies to rural health providers. Please do what you can to give rural physicians like ours a chance to try telemedicine technology and apply these new tools toward improved access and quality of care. Thank you for your support of this important measure.

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

CC 96-45

Big Bend		HADSON
Rural Health		GADSDEN
Network		WAKULLA
LEON	JEFFERSON	
TALON		
<i>"Improving health care for rural citizens"</i>		
407 E. Ash St., Perry FL P.O. Box 1847 32348		

SUNSHINE PERIOD

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Office of Secretary

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SUNSHINE PERIOD

Grace W McLaughlin
P O Box 293
Helena, GA 31037

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St. NW, Room 814
Washington, D. C. 20054

MAY 8 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

CC: Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I write in support of meaningful discount on telecommunications services for schools and libraries so that every school child and life-long learner can have access to the world of information technology. The Telecommunications Act – through its Universal Service Fund provisions – mandates the development of special discount rates for all schools and libraries so that they can secure services at affordable prices.

There is no doubt that advanced telecommunications services are important to improving learning, sparking the imagination and leveling the playing field for all of our nation's people. Affordable access to technology in all classrooms and libraries will assure that our children and life-long learners can connect with the technology they would need to compete in today's and tomorrow's workforce. Advanced telecommunications services in the classroom will also create informed and skilled consumers of new technology well into the 21st century.

Last November, the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service sent to the Federal Communications Commission a set of recommendations for implementing the Universal Service Fund provisions related to schools and libraries. These recommendations would give our learning institutions significant discounts on all services that are commercially available, with deeper discounts for those schools and libraries least able to pay and more expensive to service. All schools would get discounts on connections to classrooms and Internet connectivity, both of which are essential to providing the most advanced learning opportunities to the greatest number of students.

I urge your support for the Joint Board's recommendations. Taken as a whole, they will provide affordable discount for a full range of services, and give schools and libraries flexibility in choosing the services needed to meet each community's diverse needs. Most importantly, these provisions, if adopted by the FCC, will make advanced technology for learning available to all Americans.

Sincerely,

Grace McLaughlin

Arlene H Merritt
1001 Mimosa Lane
McRae, GA 31055

MAY 8 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St. NW, Room 814
Washington, D. C. 20054

CC: Docket No. 96-45

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Sincerely,

Arlene H Merritt

RECEIVED

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL MAY 8 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

April 29, 1997

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St. NW, Room 814
Washington, D.C. 20054

SUNSHINE PERIOD

CC: Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt,

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Sincerely,



KALEB NELSON
CONCERNED CITIZEN

SUNSHINE PERIOD

April 29, 1997

RECEIVED

MAY 8 1997

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St. NW, Room 814
Washington, D.C. 20054

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

CC: Docket No. 96-45

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I urge your support of the joint Board's recommendations. Taken as a whole, they will provide affordable discounts for a full range of services, and give schools and libraries flexibility in choosing the services needed to meet each community's diverse needs. Most importantly, these provisions, if adopted by the FCC, will make advanced technology for learning available to all Americans.

Sincerely,

Cadyn Brothers, Resource Specialist

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF NEW RICHMOND

152 East Fourth Street New Richmond, WI 54017

Telephone (715) 243-8401 Fax (715) 243-8417

Steven L. Wojan, East Elementary Principal, Director of Technology

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

May 1, 1997

MAY 8 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St. NW, Room 814
Washington, D.C. 20054

SUNSHINE PERIOD

CC: Docket No. 96-45

Dear Honorable Mr. Hundt,

I am writing to you today to urge you and the other members of the Federal Communication Commission to support the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service recommendations for providing discounted telecommunication services to schools and libraries.

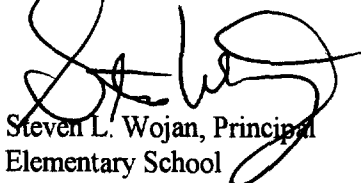
Our school will be faced with a telephone access charge of over \$7200 to connect with the Internet. Next year this will provide a 56K telephone line to be distributed over our wide area network. To put this into perspective, \$7200 is the entire supply, travel and workbook budget for the fourth grade in our school. Seven teachers and 182 students make do with less so we can connect with the outside world. \$7200 is seven computers, or a half of a teacher assistant or 2 hours a day for a keyboard instructor for a school year. Discounted telecommunication services could assist schools in helping our students and teachers get up to speed in technology. Now we have to make a choice between workbooks and telecommunication access. It is not an easy choice to make.

As an Elementary Principal and Technology Director for the School District of New Richmond, I strongly urge the FCC to consider the Joint Board's recommendation and establish an "E rate" for schools and libraries. Kids will directly benefit in the short term from this telecommunication discount and our country will benefit in the long run. Students and schools need affordable access to technology. The telecommunication discount to schools and libraries can make a difference whether a school can afford the technology needed in our changing world..

I would be happy to speak to you further on this subject., If I can be of service to you in the future, please let me know.

Sincerely,

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF NEW RICHMOND



Steven L. Wojan, Principal
Elementary School
SLW:bf

Centennial High School
4300 Centennial Lane
Ellicott City, Maryland 21042
April 18, 1997

RECEIVED

MAY - 8 1997

**Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary**

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

SUNSHINE PERIOD

Re: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Hundt:

We are members of the staff of Centennial High School in Howard County, Maryland. We are writing in support of the Universal Service discounts for schools and libraries which the Joint Board has recommended.

We would like to see that all schools and libraries have affordable access to the Information Superhighway. The inclusion of discounts for internal classroom connections is vital to providing internet access for all students.

Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. We urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries. Quality education and access to technology should be available to all, not just to the affluent.

Sincerely,

Capt. A. Stuegen
 Patricia Trabbic
 Van Collin
 Tempe Brownell
 Michelle Swanson
 Karen Wink
 Virginia H. Campbell
 Deanna Kiehl

Marian McLean
 Wren Crona
 Gail D. Pinner
~~John Lee~~
~~John Lee~~
 Geraldine & Bill
 Pauline Thompson
 Jack Stimpert
 Terry Hupert

Plain Local Schools

ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

901 44th Street, N.W., Canton, Ohio 44709 Phone (330) 492-3500

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

May 1, 1997

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N. W.
Room 814
Washington, D.C. 20554

RECEIVED

MAY - 8 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Re: CC Docket No. 96-45

SUNSHINE PERIOD

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I am a school superintendent from the Plain Local School District, and I would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all schools will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

Our district has received recognition as an Ohio Prototype for Technology, but we still need assistance in bringing the benefits of connectivity to all of our students and staff. On-line hook-ups and fees need to be reduced to ensure our public students receive equitable and adequate access to global information.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools, and importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



William R. Mease
Superintendent
Plain Local Schools

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

April 21, 1997

MAY 8 1997

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Dear Chairman Hundt:

We are faculty and staff from Mt. Harmony Elementary School in Calvert County, Maryland. We are writing in support of the Universal Service discounts for schools and libraries that have been recommended by the Joint Board.

We would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all schools and libraries will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all of our schools, and, importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital. This plan is essential for preparing the work force of tomorrow.

Our students need deep discounts for telecommunication services this year. We urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mt. Harmony Elementary Staff

Chris Beutts
Aileen Rowland
Lanier Hanes
Prudence McHale
Shirley Jackson
Chris Beutts

(my mistake - I've signed twice,
but you need to get this)

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL SUNSHINE PERIOD

Beasley Middle School
Palatka, Florida 32177
April 28, 1997

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1010 Main Street, NW, Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

RE: CC Docket No 96-45

RECEIVED
MAY 8 1997
Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I am a teacher from Putnam County School District, Florida, and I would like to thank you for your dedication ensuring that all schools and libraries will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools, and most importantly, the plan will provide services for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

Beasley Middle School as well as other schools in our district was recently retrofitted for the internet. We want our students to be able to learn vital skills necessary to become productive workers and informed citizens of our great nation as we enter the next millennium. In order for us to accomplish these goals, we will need discounts for telecommunications services this year. Without discounts, students will not be able to make the best use of money already spent on retrofitting our schools. As a taxpayer and educator I want the dollars spent to reap the most efficient results.

For these reasons, I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan to provide universal service for schools and libraries today and in years to come.

Thank you.

Sincerely,


Betty J. Jackson, Teacher

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL SUNSHINE PERIOD

Edwin S. Pope
Route 3 Box 116
Alma, Ga 31510

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St. NW, Room 814
Washington, D. C. 20054

MAY 8 1997
Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

CC: Docket No. 96-45

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I urge your support for the Joint Board's recommendations. Taken as a whole, they will provide affordable discount for a full range of services, and give schools and libraries flexibility in choosing the services needed to meet each community's diverse needs. Most importantly, these provisions, if adopted by the FCC, will make advanced technology for learning available to all Americans.

Sincerely,



DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL **SUNSHINE PERIOD**

3134 Mtn. Laurel Rd.
Boonsboro, MD 21713
29 April 1997

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

As a faculty member of Springfield Middle School in Washington County, Maryland, I am writing in support of the Universal Service discounts for schools and libraries that have been recommended by the Joint Board.

I thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all schools and libraries will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools, and importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. I appreciate your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital in preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

My students need discounts for telecommunications service. I would like to urge the FCC to completely support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

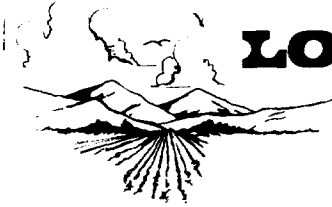
Thank you.

Sincerely,



Yvonne S. Thomas C.F.L.E / C.F.C.S

RECEIVED
MAY 8 1997
Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary



LOST HILLS Union School District

SUNSHINE PERIOD

JOHN R. BOGIE, Ed.D.
DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT

April 29, 1997

TRUSTEES

LLOYD L. FEWELL, President
GERRY L. EVANS, Clerk
DONALD W. ELHOLM
SANTIAGO GAONA
WILLIAM C. RODEN

OFFICE LOCATIONS

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION

Mailing: P.O. Box 158
14823 Office Lane
Lost Hills, CA 93249
(805) 797-2626
Fax (805) 797-2580

LOST HILLS COOPERATIVE

Mailing: P.O. Box 158
14835 Office Lane
Lost Hills, CA 93249
(805) 797-3007
Fax (805) 797-2580

LOST HILLS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Mailing: P.O. Box 158
14821 Primary Court
Lost Hills, CA 93249
(805) 797-3019
Fax (805) 797-3015

A. M. THOMAS MIDDLE SCHOOL

Mailing: P.O. Box 158
20979 Lobos Court
Lost Hills, CA 93249
(805) 797-3011
Fax (805) 797-3015

Mr. Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 814
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Hundt:

RE: CC DOCKET NO. 96-45

The Board of Trustees of the Lost Hills Union School District would like to thank you for your dedication to ensuring that all schools will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools, and importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

Heretofore, our rural community has been unable to avail itself of access to the Information Superhighway due to the inordinately high costs involved in acquiring service.

If our students are to have access to this technology, deep discounts for telecommunication services must be gained this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,


JOHN R. BOGIE, Ed.D.
District Superintendent

JRB/mh

"Each child in the world is unique."

Los Angeles Unified School District

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES: 450 NORTH GRAND AVENUE, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

MAILING ADDRESS: BOX 3307, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90051

LOS ANGELES PHONE: (213) 625-6451

SACRAMENTO PHONE: (916) 446-6641

SIDNEY A. THOMPSON
Superintendent of Schools

RONALD PRESCOTT
*Associate Superintendent
Government Relations &
Legislation*

SANTIAGO JACKSON
*Assistant Superintendent
Legislation*

SUNSHINE PERIOD

April 29, 1997

Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 814
Washington, D.C. 20554

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Office of Secretary

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

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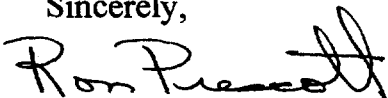
On behalf of the Los Angeles Unified School District, I would like to express our strong support for the federal "E-Rate" Telecommunications Discount Program, and the proposed regulations governing its implementation.

Under the provisions of the telecommunications Act of 1996 and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan, even the poorest schools will be assured of access to the Internet and the ability to provide distance-learning opportunities. Telecommunications services will be brought directly to the classrooms, where they can have the greatest impact on students. Each element of this plan is vital to the overall success of the discount program; the inclusion of discounts for internal classroom connections should not be eliminated, nor should the size of the Universal Service Fund be reduced. This program is absolutely essential for preparing our students to enter the workforce of tomorrow.

The E-Rate Telecommunications Discount Program is desperately overdue. To serve our students, we need these discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge you and the other FCC commissioners to fully support the recommendations of the Joint Board and approve the proposed final regulations regarding the discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Thank you for your favorable consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,



Ron Prescott
Associate Superintendent

RP/tp

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

April 16, 1997

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW, Room 814
Washington, DC 20554

SUNSHINE PERIOD

MAY 8 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

CC: Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I write in strong support of affordable and meaningful discounts for all schools and libraries so that every school child and life-long learner can have access to the world of information technology. The passage of the Telecommunications Act last year mandates the development of a rate for education or an "e-rate" to secure affordable rates reflecting the financial capability of this community.

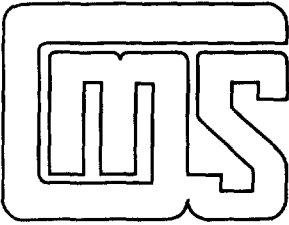
Integrating technology into the curriculum requires advanced telecommunications services and access for all classrooms - not just those classrooms in the public sector. National education surveys indicate that Catholic school classroom access to computers and connectivity is at least 50% behind that of its public school counterparts. I know for a fact that this percent is high when compared to many of our local urban Catholic schools.

In addition to the technology plan for my school being in place, the majority of Catholic schools in the greater Toledo area also have their technology plan ready to go, while the remainder of schools are currently finalizing their plan. We are however significantly disadvantaged and hindered in trying to implement our plans, because Catholic schools are excluded from most local and state funded initiatives for purchase of technology hardware. This reality compounded with the simple fact that without discounts on internal wiring and Internet access, these services may not be affordable to many schools.

I ask you to ensure that telecommunications companies provide services to schools and libraries at significantly discounted rates. I also strongly urge you to act upon this historic opportunity to bring the world of information to every school child and life long learner in America.

Sincerely,

Jennifer J. West
318 Duneside Rd.
Holland, OH 43528



Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education
Post Office Box 30035
Charlotte, North Carolina 28230-0035
Telephone (704) 379-7141

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Susan Burgess, Chairperson
Arthur Griffin Jr., Vice Chairperson
George R. Dunlap
Lindalyn Kakadelis
John W. Lassiter
Pamela R. Mange
Samuel L. Reid
John A. Tate III
Louise S. Woods

SUNSHINE PERIOD

May 1, 1997

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW, Room 814
Washington, DC 20554

RECORDED

MAY -- 8 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg School System works hard to assure that all 93,000 children in Mecklenburg County receive the finest education possible and to prepare them for their future life and work in the 21st century. Classroom connection to the internet is essential for their preparation for the information age.

I urge you to support the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan. This will enable even the poorest schools the opportunity to connect to the internet and provide distance-learning opportunities allowing equity in American education.

Thank you for your service to our nation, especially to our students, our future and number one priority.

Sincerely,

Susan Burgess

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

SUNSHINE PERIOD

4/30/97

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St. NW, Room 814
Washington, D.C. 20054

RECEIVED

MAY - 8 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

CC: Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt

I am writing in support of the Telecommunications Act in 1996 that was mandated for universal access of information services at discount rates for schools, health facilities, and community centers. The lack of funding has created a large barrier to our school in assisting students to keep up with technology. If the students of America are expected to increase their knowledge and be prepared for the future they must have this access available to them. Technology in the classroom improves student achievement in language arts, math, social studies, and science. Elementary school students in Chula Vista, California rose from the bottom 10 percent on achievement test to the 80th percentile only two and a half years post placement of advanced technology in their classes. These are the reasons that we as a community urge your support for the Joint Board's recommendations. Taken as a whole, they will provide affordable discounts for a full range of services and give schools and libraries flexibility in choosing the services needed to meet each community's diverse needs. Most importantly, these provisions, if adopted by the FCC, will make advanced technology for learning available to all Americans.

Sincerely



Judith Bomberger RN, BSN

THE LAMPHERE SCHOOLS

ADMINISTRATION CENTER

31201 Dorchester
Madison Heights, Michigan 48071-1099
Telephone: (810) 589-1990
FAX: (810) 589-2618

JAMES S. McCANN
Superintendent

GEORGE JESKO
Deputy Superintendent

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SUNSHINE PERIOD

THOMAS M. TADAJEWSKI
Associate Superintendent for Business

T.C. ROEKLE
Director of Curriculum & Instruction

April 25, 1997

MAY 8 1997

*Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary*

Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 814
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: CC Docket NO. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Hundt:

I am the School Board President from The Lamphere Schools and I would like to thank you for your dedication to ensure that all schools will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools and, importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey W. Gerald
School Board President

JWG:jo

SUNSHINE PERIOD

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

April 16, 1997

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW, Room 814
Washington, DC 20554

RECEIVED

MAY 8 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

CC: Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I write in strong support of affordable and meaningful discounts for all schools and libraries so that every school child and life-long learner can have access to the world of information technology. The passage of the Telecommunications Act last year mandates the development of a rate for education or an "e-rate" to secure affordable rates reflecting the financial capability of this community.

Integrating technology into the curriculum requires advanced telecommunications services and access for all classrooms - not just those classrooms in the public sector. National education surveys indicate that Catholic school classroom access to computers and connectivity is at least 50% behind that of its public school counterparts. I know for a fact that this percent is high when compared to many of our local urban Catholic schools.

In addition to the technology plan for my school being in place, the majority of Catholic schools in the greater Toledo area also have their technology plan ready to go, while the remainder of schools are currently finalizing their plan. We are however significantly disadvantaged and hindered in trying to implement our plans, because Catholic schools are excluded from most local and state funded initiatives for purchase of technology hardware. This reality compounded with the simple fact that without discounts on internal wiring and Internet access, these services may not be affordable to many schools.

I ask you to ensure that telecommunications companies provide services to schools and libraries at significantly discounted rates. I also strongly urge you to act upon this historic opportunity to bring the world of information to every school child and life long learner in America.

Sincerely,

Wilma F. Orszag
10455 W. Bancroft
Holland Ohio

43528

SUNSHINE PERIOD

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**Black Oak Mine Teachers Association
P.O. Box 703, Garden Valley, California
95633**

April 28, 1997

Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

RECEIVED

MAY - 8 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

CC: Docket No. 96-45

Dear Mr. Chairman:

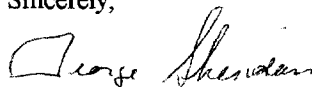
The Black Oak Mine Teachers Association represents teachers in the Black Oak Mine Unified School District, serving a rural area on the Georgetown Divide between the Middle and South Forks of the American River in El Dorado County, California. Public library service is limited and distant for most residents of our school district. University libraries are miles away and part of the journey is by steep and winding mountain roads. Public utilities in this rural area are expensive.

Our students' best hope for well-prepared teachers and for up-to-date research materials is through Internet access, particularly at school. Our school district is making a major commitment to technology so every student will have meaningful opportunity to take advantage of information technology.

Last November, the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service sent you a set of recommendations for implementing the Universal Service Fund provisions related to schools and libraries. Schools would receive discounts on connections to classrooms and Internet connectivity.

I urge your support for the Joint Board's recommendations. They could significantly increase our ability to make advanced technology and information available to the students we serve.

Sincerely,



George Sheridan
President



READY SPRINGS UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

10862 SPENCEVILLE ROAD, PENN VALLEY, CALIFORNIA 95661
(916) 432-1118 • FAX: (916) 432-9473

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GREG PETERSON
PRINCIPAL

SUNSHINE PERIOD

LARRY BABCOCK
SUPERINTENDENT

April 28, 1997

The Honorable Reed Hundt
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 814
Washington, DC 20554

RECEIVED

MAY 8 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Commissioner Hundt:

We are writing to you in regard to the federal "E-Rate" Telecommunications Discount Program. We are locally elected school board members from Ready Springs School District, and we would like to express our strong support for this program and the proposed regulations governing its implementation.

The Telecommunications Act of 1996 and the Federal-State Joint Board discount plan will guarantee that even the poorest schools will have access to the Internet and the ability to provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of schools across the country, and the plan will bring telecommunications services directly to the classrooms where they can have the greatest impact on students.

The inclusion of discounts for internal classroom connections should not be eliminated, nor should the size of the Universal Service Fund be reduced. Each element of the plan is vital, because we are preparing students to enter tomorrow's workforce.

The E-Rate Telecommunications Discount Program is overdue. Our students need these discounts for telecommunications services this year. We urge you and the other FCC commissioners to fully support the recommendations of the Joint Board and approve the proposed final regulations regarding the discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Victoria Oliver

Pam Wolfe

Clinton Patche

Robin McCrary

Dave Walker

Larry Babcock, Superintendent

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

April 30, 1997

SUNSHINE PERIOD

Honorable Reed Hundt: Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW Room 844
Washington, DC 20544

RECEIVED

MAY 8 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Dear Chairman Hundt:

RE: CC Docket 96-45: Universal Service to Schools and Libraries

I am writing in strong support of the meaningful discounts for schools and libraries as envisioned by the Federal-State Joint Board in their Recommended Rules published last November.

The Recommended Rules allows schools and libraries significant discounts for the telecommunications and **critical, non-telecommunications** services necessary to assure that **all** of our schools are connected to the Internet and other on-line resources that are critical to live, learn and work in an increasingly information driven world.

Congress passed the Telecommunications Act of 1966 with the clear intent of insuring that schools and libraries would be able to access the latest technology. By allowing significant discounts on telecommunications services, local wiring and Internet access, the Joint Board has accurately recognized the needs of poorer schools that cannot afford the internal wiring necessary to connect with the Internet. By allowing telco and non-telco carriers to compete for the discounts, the Joint Board has also recognized the need for diverse technologies to serve the diverse urban and rural areas of the state.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter that helps not only our schools and libraries, but us all. A better educated community benefits everyone!

Sincerely,

Ron Stanley
Mary Stanley

Ron and Mary Stanley
555 Red Cypress Drive
Cary, Illinois 60013
(847)516-3110